

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11565

DEPT FOR EUR/SOV

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, PFOR, UR, US

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATION LIST 18

REF: MOSCOW 11515

1. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY'S SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR PRESENTATION OF REP LIST 18:

1. RECALL THAT REP LIST 17 WAS PRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR STOESSEL ON AUGUST 18, 1975, SHORTLY AFTER COMPLETION OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE. IT IS NOW ALMOST THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT WHICH STATES THAT "...PARTICIPATING STATES WILL DEAL IN A POSITIVE SPIRIT WITH THE APPLICATIONS OF PERSONS WHO WISH TO BE REUNITED WITH MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY," AND WHICH CALLS FOR HANDLING "...APPLICATIONS IN THIS FIELD AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE." WHILE OUR REPRESENTATION LISTS LONG PRE-DATE HELSINKI, THIS ANNIVERSARY PROVIDES A USEFUL BENCHMARK FOR REVIEWING PAST EFFORTS AND LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE.

3. EXPRESS SATISFACTION THAT 34 CASES, INVOLVING 94 INDIVIDUALS, FROM THE LAST LIST WERE FAVORABLY RESOLVED. THE RESOLUTION OF THE CASES OF ICEK RUBIN (LATVIA), FOR WHOM WE BEGAN MAKING REPRESENTATIONS IN 1959, AND OF VICTOR HERMAN (MOLDAVIA), A CONFIDENTIAL

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"DUAL NATIONAL," WERE ESPECIALLY GRATIFYING.

4. INFORM THE SOVIETS THAT, FOR OUR PART, WE HAVE MADE A MAJOR EFFORT OVER THE PAST YEAR TO INSURE THAT ALL FAMILIES INCLUDED IN THE LIST ARE, IN FACT, CURRENTLY MAKING ACTIVE EFFORTS TO REJOIN THEIR CLOSE RELATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES. IN THE PROCESS, THE SIZE OF THE LIST HAS BEEN GREATLY REDUCED AND THE NEW LIST CONTAINS 114 FAMILIES OF 317 INDIVIDUALS. MANY OF THESE CASES ARE OF LONG DURATION. MRS. PAULIONIENE (LITHUANIA) AND MRS. SALAK (UKRAINE), FOR EXAMPLE, HAVE BEEN SEPARATED FROM THEIR HUSBANDS SINCE WORLD WAR II. MR. KAKIS (ESTONIA) HAS BEEN TRYING TO REJOIN HIS BROTHER IN THE US SINCE 1959. THE LIST ALSO CONTAINS ELEVEN "DUAL NATIONALS," INCLUDING MR. JODWALKIS AND MRS. VAICEKAUSKIENE (LITHUANIA), A BROTHER AND SISTER, BOTH BORN IN THE UNITED STATES, WHO HAVE BEEN PREVENTED FROM REJOINING THEIR FOUR SIBLINGS FOR OVER 20 YEARS. IN THESE AND OTHER CASES OF FAMILIES OF PEOPLE OF MODEST CIRCUMSTANCES, MANY OF THEM NOW OLD, IT IS DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THE RATIONALE FOR KEEPING THE FAMILIES SEPARATED. AS THESE CASES ARE REVIEWED BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES, WE WOULD HOPE TO BE INFORMED OF THE GROUNDS FOR ANY FURTHER REFUSALS.

5. IN CONCLUSION, CITE THE NATURAL INTEREST BEING FOCUSED ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT BY THE US CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AS THE ANNIVERSARY APPROACHES, AND POINT OUT THAT SOVIET ACTIONS ON RESOLVING THESE REP LIST CASES WILL BE CONSIDERED A MAJOR INDICATOR OF SOVIET INTENTIONS CONCERNING THE FINAL ACT AS A WHOLE, AND OF COURSE, BASKET III IN PARTICULAR. AS THE SOVIET SIDE IS AWARE, WE ARE ANXIOUS TO BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE THAT THE FINAL ACT HAD SUBSTANTIAL INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE. POSITIVE ACTION ON REUNIFICATION OF THE FAMILIES ON THE REP LIST WOULD PROVIDE CLEAR DEMONSTRATION THAT IT HAS.

6. DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS REQUESTED. MATLOCK

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